



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7007

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The policies of higher
2 education in the state shall be consistent with the following goals
3 adopted from the recommendations of the Planning Commission for
4 Higher Education in the strategic master plan for higher education
5 developed pursuant to section 10a-11b of the general statutes, as
6 amended by this act:

7 (1) Increase the education levels of the adult population of the state,
8 on or before January 1, 2025, to a target of not less than forty per cent
9 of adults having earned a bachelor degree and not less than thirty per
10 cent of adults having earned an associate degree or sub-baccalaureate
11 certificate for purposes of ensuring the state has a workforce with the
12 skills necessary for achieving and sustaining a competitive economy
13 by measures including, but not limited to (A) reducing socioeconomic
14 disparities, (B) reducing the achievement gap between whites and
15 minorities, as defined in section 10-155l of the general statutes, (C)
16 improving the lives of residents living in the most urbanized areas of
17 the cities of the state, and (D) ensuring that the quality of
18 postsecondary education is improved;

19 (2) Develop a globally competitive workforce and economy in the
20 state by cultivating an environment that attracts and retains a highly
21 educated, diverse population by (A) aligning postsecondary degree
22 attainment with the workforce needs of employers in the state, (B)
23 contributing to the expansion and diversification of the state's
24 economy through research and innovation, (C) establishing
25 partnerships between institutions of higher education and business,
26 civic and cultural leaders in the state, and (D) increasing the number of
27 students engaged in community service, internships and other
28 workplace-based learning experiences; and

29 (3) Ensure that higher education is affordable for the residents of the
30 state by (A) narrowing the gap between the cost of attendance at an
31 institution of higher education and family income, (B) reducing, on or
32 before January 1, 2025, the average student loan to the national
33 average, and (C) increasing, on or before January 1, 2025, by five per
34 cent the number of recent high school graduates in the state who enroll
35 in institutions of higher education in the state.

36 (b) For purposes of this section, "sub-baccalaureate certificate"
37 means a postsecondary award earned on a for-credit basis and
38 conferred upon successful completion of a formal postsecondary
39 program below the baccalaureate level.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1b of the general statutes is
41 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
42 *1, 2015*):

43 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall appoint a
44 president who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The president of
45 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall (1) have the authority
46 to implement the policies, directives and rules of the board and any
47 additional responsibilities as the board may prescribe, (2) implement
48 the goals identified in section 1 of this act and recommendations made
49 pursuant to section 10a-11b, as amended by this act, (3) build
50 interdependent support among the Connecticut State University

51 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter
52 Oak State College, (4) balance central authority with institutional
53 differentiation, autonomy and creativity, and (5) facilitate cooperation
54 and synergy among the Connecticut State University System, the
55 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
56 College. Said president may designate an alternate to serve as a
57 member of any commission, foundation or committee upon which the
58 general statutes require said president to serve. Such designee may
59 vote on behalf of said president. There shall be an executive staff
60 responsible for the operation of the Board of Regents for Higher
61 Education. The executive staff shall be under the direction of the
62 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, who shall be
63 the chief executive officer of the Board of Regents for Higher
64 Education.

65 Sec. 3. Section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

67 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
68 [state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public
69 higher education] policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State
70 University System, the regional community-technical college system
71 and Charter Oak State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher
72 education and postsecondary education [,] at the Connecticut State
73 University System, the regional community-technical college system
74 and Charter Oak State College consistent with the goals [in subsection
75 (b) of this section] identified in section 1 of this act; (3) establish [state-
76 wide] tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
77 University System, the regional community-technical college system
78 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate [institutional]
79 the effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
80 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
81 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close
82 institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the
83 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State

84 College in accordance with criteria established by the board, provided
85 (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds
86 vote of the board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or
87 closing shall be sent to the committee having cognizance over matters
88 relating to education and to the General Assembly; (6) review and
89 approve mission statements for the Connecticut State University
90 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter
91 Oak State College and role and scope statements for the individual
92 institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and
93 approve any recommendations for the establishment of new academic
94 programs submitted to the board by the state [colleges] universities
95 within the Connecticut State University System, the regional
96 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College, and, in
97 consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the
98 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; [The
99 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall notify the board of
100 trustees affected by the proposed termination of an academic program.
101 Within ninety days of receipt of such notice, said trustees shall accept
102 or reject the termination proposal and shall notify the Board of Regents
103 for Higher Education of its action. If the termination proposal is
104 rejected by the trustees, the Board of Regents for Higher Education
105 may override the rejection by a two-thirds vote;] (8) develop criteria to
106 ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs [and institutions] at the
107 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
108 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B)
109 institutions within the Connecticut State University System and the
110 regional community-technical college system and enforce standards
111 through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the
112 Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8,
113 consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets for [public
114 higher education] the Connecticut State University System, the
115 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
116 College developed in accordance with the provisions of said section
117 10a-8; (10) [review and make recommendations on plans received from
118 the constituent unit boards of trustees for the continuing development

119 and maximum utilization of the state's public higher education
120 resources; (11) appoint advisory committees to assist in defining and
121 suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of higher education;
122 (12) establish an advisory council for higher education with
123 representatives from public and private institutions to study methods
124 and proposals for coordinating efforts of all such institutions in
125 providing a stimulating and enriched educational environment for the
126 citizens of the state, including measures to improve educational
127 opportunities through alternative and nontraditional approaches such
128 as external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate
129 programs and services throughout public higher education and
130 between public and independent institutions, including procedures to
131 evaluate the impact on independent institutions of higher education of
132 proposals affecting public institutions of higher education; (14)] make
133 or enter into contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with
134 its responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real
135 estate by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section
136 4b-23; [(15)] (11) be responsible for the care and maintenance of
137 permanent records of institutions of higher education dissolved after
138 September 1, 1969; [(16)] (12) prepare and present to the Governor and
139 General Assembly legislative proposals affecting [public higher
140 education, including proposals which utilize programs and facilities of
141 independent institutions of higher education; (17)] the Connecticut
142 State University System, the regional community-technical college
143 system and Charter Oak State College; (13) develop and maintain a
144 central higher education information system and establish definitions
145 and data requirements for the [state system of higher education; (18)]
146 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
147 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (14) report all
148 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State
149 University System, the regional community-technical college system
150 and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and
151 [(19)] (15) undertake such studies and other activities as will best serve
152 the higher educational interests of the [state] Connecticut State
153 University System, the regional community-technical college system

154 and Charter Oak State College.

155 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the
156 state system of higher education shall be consistent with (1) the
157 following goals: ~~[(1)]~~ (A) To ensure that no qualified person be denied
158 the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender
159 identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or
160 economic condition, ~~[(2)]~~ and (B) to protect academic freedom, ~~[(3)~~ to
161 provide opportunities for education and training related to the
162 economic, cultural and educational development of the state, (4) to
163 assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and
164 private institutions of higher education, (5) to maintain standards of
165 quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions
166 of higher education, (6) to apply the resources of higher education to
167 the problems of society, and (7) to foster flexibility in the policies and
168 institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to
169 changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests] and
170 (2) the goals for higher education in the state identified in section 1 of
171 this act. Said board shall review recent studies of the need for higher
172 education services, with special attention to those completed pursuant
173 to legislative action, and to meet such needs shall initiate additional
174 programs or services through one or more of the constituent units.

175 (c) Repealed by P.A. 83-533, S. 53, 54.

176 (d) The board of regents shall request and receive, or be provided
177 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the
178 constituent units of the state system of higher education that is
179 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this
180 section.

181 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10a-104 of the general statutes is
182 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
183 1, 2015):

184 (a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1)

185 Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine
186 the general policies of the university, including those concerning the
187 admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges,
188 divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the
189 goals identified in section 1 of this act, and shall direct the expenditure
190 of the university's funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the
191 mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses
192 thereof, [which] that shall be consistent with such goals and include,
193 but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational
194 needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses;
195 (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of
196 each institution and campus within the university system, which shall
197 include each institution's and campus' particular strengths and
198 specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the
199 individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review
200 and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic
201 programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the
202 Office of Higher Education, (6) make recommendations, when
203 appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7)
204 coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses
205 under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements,
206 consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and
207 indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of
208 Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the
209 grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or
210 omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9)
211 promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the
212 executive director of the Office of Higher Education and the joint
213 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
214 matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially
215 thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a
216 building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for
217 such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a
218 procedure approved by the Treasurer and (B) nothing in this
219 subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as

220 defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of
221 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the
222 United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid
223 from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the
224 powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish
225 by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by
226 a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the
227 university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or
228 payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

229 Sec. 5. Section 10a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the
230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

231 [(a) The accountability measures developed by the Higher
232 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to subsection (b) of section
233 10a-6a shall be used by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and
234 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education in
235 assessing each public institution of higher education's progress toward
236 meeting the following goals to: (1) Enhance student learning and
237 promote academic excellence; (2) join with elementary and secondary
238 schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels; (3) ensure access
239 to and affordability of higher education; (4) promote the economic
240 development of the state to help business and industry sustain strong
241 economic growth; (5) respond to the needs and problems of society;
242 and (6) ensure the efficient use of resources. The council shall develop
243 an implementation plan for use of the accountability measures.]

244 [(b)] (a) In developing the accountability measures pursuant to
245 subsection [(a) of this section] (b) of section 10a-6a, the [council]
246 Higher Education Coordinating Council shall consider [: (1)
247 Graduation rates, (2) student retention rates, (3) completions, (4)
248 tuition and fees, (5) allocation of resources across expenditure
249 functions, as defined by the National Association of College and
250 University Business Officers, (6) revenues and expenditures broken out
251 by programs, (7) student financial need and available aid, (8) transfer
252 patterns of students transferring in and out of the constituent units, (9)

253 trends in enrollment and the percentage of incoming students who are
254 state residents, (10) strategic plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data
255 on graduates, including age, by academic and noncredit vocational
256 course and program, (12) faculty productivity, (13) the] (1) the goals
257 adopted by the Planning Commission for Higher Education and
258 identified in section 1 of this act, and [(14)] (2) any other factor that it
259 deems relevant. All measures shall be made available for inspection
260 and separated out by constituent unit, institution of higher education,
261 campus and program.

262 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education and each constituent
263 unit of the state system of higher education shall use such
264 accountability measures in assessing the progress of each public
265 institution of higher education toward meeting such goals.

266 (c) The council shall work with the Labor Department to (1) produce
267 periodic reports, capable of being sorted by student age, on the
268 employment status, job retention and earnings of students enrolled in
269 academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior
270 to enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who
271 leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise, and (2)
272 develop an annual affordability index for public higher education that
273 is based on state-wide median family income.

274 (d) The council shall submit the accountability measures to the
275 Board of Regents for Higher Education for the board's review and
276 approval. Once the measures are approved, each constituent unit shall
277 provide the data to the board that is necessary for purposes of
278 applying the measures.

279 (e) Each public institution of higher education of the state system of
280 higher education shall submit an accountability report to the president
281 of the Board of Regents for Higher Education annually, by November
282 first. The president shall compile the reports and shall submit, in
283 accordance with section 11-4a, a consolidated accountability report for
284 the state system of higher education to the joint standing committee of

285 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
286 education annually, by December first. The report shall contain
287 accountability measures for each constituent unit and public
288 institution of higher education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of
289 this section. The report shall include updated baseline and peer
290 comparison data, performance improvement targets for each measure,
291 and other information as determined by the president.

292 Sec. 6. Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
293 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

294 (a) There is established a Planning Commission for Higher
295 Education to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic
296 master plan for higher education in Connecticut.

297 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:
298 (A) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
299 Representatives, who shall have experience as former administrators
300 or faculty members in independent institutions of higher education in
301 this state; (B) two members appointed by the president pro tempore of
302 the Senate, one of whom shall be a former administrator or faculty
303 member of a regional community-technical college and one of whom
304 shall be a former administrator or faculty member of The University of
305 Connecticut; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
306 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a former
307 administrator or faculty member of a state university in the
308 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a
309 former administrator or faculty member of Charter Oak State College;
310 (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one
311 of whom shall have experience in the field of arts and culture and one
312 of whom shall have experience in the field of health care; (E) two
313 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
314 Representatives who shall have knowledge and expertise in science
315 and technology; (F) two members appointed by the minority leader of
316 the Senate who shall represent state-wide business organizations; and
317 (G) five members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall

318 represent a nonprofit education foundation, one of whom shall have
319 experience in university research and its commercial application and
320 one of whom shall have experience in the field of education from
321 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive. The commission
322 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic
323 diversity.

324 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
325 members on the commission: (A) The president of the Board of
326 Regents for Higher Education, the Commissioner of Education, the
327 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
328 Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) the chairpersons of the
329 boards of trustees and the chief executive officers of each constituent
330 unit of the state system of higher education, or their designees; (C) the
331 chairperson of the board and president of the Connecticut Conference
332 of Independent Colleges, or their designees; (D) the chairpersons and
333 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
334 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
335 and employment advancement; and (E) the Secretary of the Office of
336 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

337 (3) The commission shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. Any
338 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each
339 appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the
340 date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without
341 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the
342 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and
343 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it
344 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The
345 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to
346 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds
347 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

348 (b) In accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
349 10a-6, as amended by this act, the commission shall develop and
350 [ensure the implementation of] implement a strategic master plan that:

351 (1) Examines the impact of demographic, workforce and education
352 trends on higher education in the state;

353 (2) (A) Establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2020 to increase the
354 number of people earning a bachelor's degree, associate degree or
355 certificate, increases the number of people successfully completing
356 coursework at the community college level and the number of people
357 entering the state's workforce and eliminates the postsecondary
358 achievement gap between minority students and the general student
359 population, and (B) includes specific strategies for meeting such goals,
360 as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant to subdivision (2)
361 of subsection (a) of section 10a-6, as amended by this act;

362 (3) Examines and recommends changes to funding policies,
363 practices and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices
364 with the goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6, as amended
365 by this act, including an evaluation of the use of strategic and
366 performance-based incentive funding; (B) determine how the
367 constituent units shall annually report to the General Assembly and
368 the public in a transparent and thorough manner regarding each
369 constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and state support, including
370 the state appropriation, personnel expenses, personnel fringe benefits,
371 capital improvement bonds and financial aid to students; and (C)
372 improve coordination of appropriation, tuition and financial aid and
373 seek ways to maximize funding through federal and private grants;
374 and

375 (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent unit of the state
376 system of higher education and independent institution of higher
377 education in the state can, in a manner consistent with such
378 institution's mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the
379 state's economic growth.

380 (c) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall
381 review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6, as amended by this act,
382 and 10a-11. In addition, the commission may consider the following:

383 (1) Establishing incentives for institutional performance and
384 productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive programs, especially
385 in workforce shortage areas and for minority students; (3)
386 implementing mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools
387 and aligning such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher
388 education; (4) seeking partnerships with the business community and
389 public institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce
390 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work
391 directly with higher education institutions to move students into
392 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative
393 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher
394 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high
395 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for
396 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical
397 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure
398 retention and graduation rates of students, including graduation rates
399 for students who have transferred among two or more constituent
400 units or public institutions of higher education; (8) addressing the
401 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,
402 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,
403 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase
404 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)
405 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher
406 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

407 (d) Not later than June 1, 2014, the commission shall submit a
408 preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan
409 and, not later than September 1, 2014, the commission shall submit the
410 strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for the
411 years ending 2020 and 2025, together with any recommendations for
412 appropriate legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint
413 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
414 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
415 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
416 provisions of section 11-4a.

417 (e) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
 418 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
 419 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 420 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
 421 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with
 422 section 11-4a, on the implementation of the plan and progress made
 423 toward achieving the goals specified in the plan. The commission may
 424 periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary.

425 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, for purposes of implementing the
 426 strategic master plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the
 427 commission, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and
 428 Management, shall establish working groups and consult with any
 429 existing working groups, commissions or task forces that may
 430 investigate and offer guidance on specific objectives identified by the
 431 commission or the office, including, but not limited to, outcomes-based
 432 financing and workforce development, the examination of which by
 433 the commission are essential to achieving the goals specified in the
 434 plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-1b(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-6
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-6b
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-11b

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*